

MINUTES
Public Hearing of the College Park City Council
Tuesday, June 14, 2011 - 7:30 p.m.

Ordinance 11-O-09
An Ordinance Of the Mayor and Council Of the City of College Park, Maryland
To Adopt a Redistricting Plan (“Plan C”) for Council Member Elections as Required
by § C2-2 Of the College Park Charter

PRESENT: Mayor Fellows; Councilmembers Nagle, Wojahn, Stullich, Cook, Afzali and Mitchell.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Perry and Catlin

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Chantal Cotton, Assistant to the City Manager; Marcella Morris, Student Liaison.

Mayor Fellows called to order the Public Hearing on Ordinance 11-O-09 at 7:30 p.m. Ms. Cotton gave an overview of the proposed new districts.

For District 1, the southern border is the same, the western boundary shifts further west to include the IKEA area and Mazza Grandmarc west of Route 1. The neighborhoods within the new District 1 boundaries are: Camden, Wynfield Park, Sunnyside, Hollywood, Daniels Park (north), Mazza Grandmarc and the IKEA Annexation.

For District 2, the northern border is the same, and the southern border changed around Route 1 and Paint Branch Parkway so that it went to the natural border. There were some changes around the campus area. The neighborhoods and buildings within the new District 2 boundaries are: Daniels Park (south), Branchville, Berwyn, Lakeland, the University View area and the Varsity. The Campus Residence Halls included in District 2 are the North Hill Community, South Hill Community, and South Campus Commons Buildings 3 and 4.

For District 3: It's the same except the northern border goes up to the meeting point of Paint Branch Parkway and Route 1, and there are changes on campus. The neighborhoods and buildings within the new District 3 boundaries are: College Park Estates, Yarrow, Calvert Hills, Old Town, Lord Calvert Manor, Fraternity Row, and East Campus. The Campus Residence Halls included in District 3 are South Campus Commons Buildings 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7.

District 4: It's the same except it lost the IKEA Annexation area and the Mazza Grandmarc area. The boundary shifts east on campus to include the Ellicott, Denton and Cambridge communities. The boundary outside of campus shifts to exclude the View properties. The neighborhoods and buildings within the new District 4 boundaries are: College Park Woods, Crystal Springs,

Autoville (north and south), Patricia Court, Cherry Hill, University Courtyards and the Campus Residence Halls of Cambridge Community, Denton Community and Ellicott Community.

Comments from the audience:

Mark Shroder, 4909 Muskogee: This map represents the minimum change that could be made to the current system, and from the point of view of a person running for election, that is an advantage. We have now been working under a particular court-ordered settlement for two decades which does a profound injustice to north College Park. In 2009, there were 605 voters in District 1, and 186 voters in District 2. He estimates that in 2007, there were 598 votes in District 1, and 161 votes in District 2. In 2005 there were 344 votes in District 1 and 129 votes in District 2. In 2003 there were 332 votes in District 1 and 85 votes in District 2. District 3 has gone up and down, with as little as 202 votes and as many as 445. District 4 votes go up and down, with as little as 90 as many as 317. Systematically, District 1 has far more than 25% of the voters, but only 25% of the votes. The reason is the settlement that the City agreed to in which district lines have to be drawn so that the sum of population plus actual voters in the most recent gubernatorial or presidential election is equalized. That formula gives vastly too much weight to on-campus students, who have no reason to vote, do not pay taxes and do not receive services. The people who do vote are seriously underrepresented. He hopes the Council will go back in to court after the next election and ask to get a new formula for settlement of the underlying dispute.

Jack Robson, 4710 Harvard Road: He believes that when the City lost the law suit that easily allowed students to vote in the City, there were eight districts. Later on the Council decided to make it four districts. The disproportion of which Mr. Shroder speaks probably could be resolved by going back to eight districts.

There being no further testimony, Mayor Fellows adjourned the Public Hearing on Ordinance 11-O-09 at 7:45 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller, CMC
City Clerk

Date Approved